

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 OMB-01 /064 W

----- 120994

R 220252Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5853

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26518

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, TH, MY

SUBJ: DEMO CONTINUES AT PATTANI

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK DEC 19 FM SONGKHLA RPTD
FOR YOU INFO:

SONGKHLA 223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, TH, MY

SUBJ: DEMO CONTINUES AT PATTANI

REF: SONGKHLA 221

1. SEVERAL THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS CONTINUE VIGIL AT
PATTANI MOSQUE PROTESTING RECENT MUSLIM DEATHS (REFTEL).
VILLAGERS NOW SPILLING OVER ONTO ROAD AND BLOCKING TRAFFIC
(MOSSQUE LIES ON MAIN PATTANI-YALA ROAD AND IS CENTRAL MOSQUE
FOR ALL MUSLIMS IN SOUTH THAILAND).

2. RTG DELEGATION FROM BANGKOK WHICH CONSISTED OF INTERIOR
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MINISTER BOONTENG AND BANGKOK'S MUSLIM LEADER SEEMS TO

HAVE FAILED. BOTH LEFT PATTANI DECEMBER 18 TO CARRY BACK DEMAND THAT PM KHUKRIT COME SOUTH HIMSELF (REFTEL).

3. CALL FOR KHUKRIT TO COME SEEMS GENUINE RESPONSE TO SAME OLD RTG METHODS OF SENDING DOWN CABINET PEOPLE OR FOLLOWING SITUATION ONLY FROM GOVERNORS' AND POLICE REPORTS. MUSLIMS FEEL THEY OUGHT TO MAKE THEIR GRIEVANCES KNOWN DIRECTLY TO PM.

4. LIKELY THAT STUDENT AGITATORS FROM BANGKOK AND SEPARATISTS ARE NOW INVOLVED IN PROTEST AS WELL. MALAYSIAN RADIO STATION IN KELANTAN REPORTEDLY BROADCASTING STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF RTG "OPPRESSION" OF MUSLIMS AND SYMPATHIZING WITH SEPARATISTS.

5. FURTHER COMPLICATING ISSUE IS FACT THAT MUSLIM MODERATES SEEM TO BE LED BY HAJI AMIN TOMENA, WHO IS CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS LEADER AND EX-MP FROM THANOM/PRAPHAT POLITICAL PARTY. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HAJI AMIN IS ALSO SON OF HAJI SULONG, WHO WAS LEADER OF MUSLIM REBELLION IN 1950'S, AND NOVEMBER 30 DEATHS OBVIOUSLY EVOKE MURDERS OF HIS FATHER AND OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN 1950'S WHICH ALSO WENT UNPUNISHED. (HAJI SULONG WAS FOUND DROWN IN SONGKHLA LAKE, REPORTEDLY ON ORDERS FROM BOONLERT LERTPRICHA, CURRENT DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR, WHO WAS SPECIAL BRANCH CHIEF FOR SOUTH THAILAND IN THOSE WILDER WEST DAYS).

6. ROOTS OF CURRENT SITUATION, THEREFORE, EXTREMELY ENTANGLED AND EMOTIONS DEEP. POTENTIAL FOR AGITATORS IS VAST, AND COMMUNAL PROBLEMS FOR RTG LIKELY TO CONTINUE. CASTRODALE WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MOSLEMS, DEATHS, STUDENT GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO26518
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750443-0727
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751220/aaaaarlr.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SONGKHLA 221
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMO CONTINUES AT PATTANI
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, TH, MY
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006